

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00542 01 OF 02 071253Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 MMO-04 STR-04 /094 W
-----071307Z 055110 /44

R 070951Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 4334
INFO USDOC WASHINGTON DC
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE
AMEMBASSY BONN GERMANY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA AUSTRALIA
AMCONGEN DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABI
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON ENGLAND
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN
USLO PEKING CHINA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL KOREA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO JAPAN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MANAMA 542/1

ABU DHABI PLEASE PASS DUBAI

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : ETRD, BEXP, BA

SUBJECT : 1976 TRADE STATISTICS FOR BAHRAIN

REF : 76 MANAMA 258 (NOTAL)

1. GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN, DIRECTORATE OF STATISTICS
HAS JUST RELEASED 1976 FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS.
TOTAL IMPORTS TO BAHRAIN INCREASED BY A WHOPPING
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PAGE 02 MANAMA 00542 01 OF 02 071253Z

SIXTY-EIGHT PERCENT OVER 1976 FIGURES, FROM \$574 TO
\$964 MILLION. IN CONTRAST, THE INCREASE BETWEEN
1974 AND 1975 IMPORT FIGURES WAS THIRTY ONE PERCENT.

2. MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS: (A) UNITED KINGDOM WITH
18 PERCENT (\$171 MILLION); (B) USA WITH 15 PERCENT (\$144 MILLION);
(C) JAPAN WITH 14 PERCENT (\$134 MILLION); (D) WEST GERMANY

WITH 6 PERCENT (\$62 MILLION); (E) SOUTH KOREA WITH 5 PERCENT (\$48 MILLION); (F) AUSTRALIA WITH 5 PERCENT (\$45 MILLION); (G) PEOPLE REPUBLIC OF CHINA WITH 4 PERCENT (\$38 MILLION). IN TERMS OF SHARE OF THE BAHRAIN MARKET, THE U.K. AND U.S.A. MAINTAINED ABOUT THEIR SAME LEVELS AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WHILE JAPAN, KOREA AND WEST GERMANY INCREASED THEIR STANDING. OF THESE THE SOUTH KOREAN ADVANCE WAS THE MOST IMPRESSIVE: A MORE THAN 2000 PERCENT INCREASE, UP FROM JUST \$2.2 MILLION IN 1975.

3. BAHRAIN'S EXPORTS, EXCLUDING OIL, INCREASED BY 63 PERCENT OVER 1975 (TO \$342 MILLION). THESE IMPORTANTLY INCLUDE ALUMINUM INGOTS (\$111 MILLION) AND SHRIMPS AS WELL AS SIGNIFICANT RE-EXPORTS TO SAUDI ARABIA OF MACHINERY, TEXTILES, TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING (MUCH OF IT FROM THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA).

4. AS WE NOTED LAST YEAR (REFTEL), THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE HAVE INSIGNIFICANT TRADE WITH BAHRAIN.

5. MAJOR ITEMS OF IMPORT WERE: (A) MACHINERY OTHER THAN ELECTRIC, \$180 MILLION; (B) TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT, \$108 MILLION; (C) ELECTRIC MACHINERY, \$100 MILLION; (D) TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, \$60 MILLION; (E) MANUFACTURES OF METALS, \$58 MILLION; (F) NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES, \$44 MILLION; (G) IRON AND STEEL, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 MANAMA 00542 01 OF 02 071253Z

\$40 MILLION; (H) CLOTHING, \$40 MILLION.

6. COMMENT ON TRADE STATISTICS: AS WE NOTED IN RECENT ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT (MANAMA A-3, FEBRUARY 22, 1977), USDOC FIGURES FOJ 1976 US EXPORTS TO BAHRAIN TOTAL \$280 MILLION. WE THINK THIS FIGURE MUST INCLUDE THE TWO PURCHASE DECISIONS ANNOUNCED BY THE REGIONAL GULF AIR IN 1975 AND 1976 FOR LOCKHEED TRISTARS AND BOEING 737S. SINCE THE AIRLINE, ALTHOUGH HEADQUARTERED IN BAHRAIN, IS JOINTLY AND EQUALLY OWNED BY THE FOUR GULF STATES OF OMAN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, QATAR AND BAHRAIN AND SINCE MAJOR PURCHASES ARE IN FACT FINANCED BY THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND QATAR, IT SEEMS TO US

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00542 02 OF 02 071258Z

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
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INFO USDOC WASHINGTON DC
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MANAMA 542/2

TO BE DISTORTION TO SOLELY INCLUDE THOSE FIGURES
IN THE BAHRAIN STATISTICS. IF USDOC HAS ANOTHER
INTERPRETATION OF THE DISCREPANCY IN FIGURES, WHICH
HAS NEVER EXISTED IN THE PAST (IN BOTH 1975 AND 1974,
BAHRAINI AND US STATISTICS WERE WITHIN ONE MILLION
DOLLARS OF EACH OTHER), WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO
HEAR IT.

7. IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS VOLUME OF TRADE INCREASES,
THE THIRTY DAY WAITING PERIOD AT THE MINA SALMAN PORT
AS WELL AS THE OCCASIONAL CHAOS AT THE AIR FREIGHT
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PAGE 02 MANAMA 00542 02 OF 02 071258Z

SECTION OF THE BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BECOMES
REMARKABLE ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT BOTH THOSE
PROBLEMS AREN'T CONSIDERABLY WORSE.

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